

OITA AA MEETING

MEETING VIA TELEPHONE WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA PHILIP GOLDBERG

Date/Time: TBD

Conference call line: TBD

I. Purpose

- YOU will have a call with Ambassador Philip Goldberg on your request to discuss:
 - EPA's past and recent work on environmental issues with Colombia and your interest in finding no/low cost ways to enhance EPA's bilateral relationship.
 - Colombia's recent accession to OECD as a possible driver for enhancing cooperation.
 - The Ambassador's views on Colombia's environmental challenges, Embassy Bogota's priority environmental work with Colombia, and ideas where EPA could be a value added.
- This call is an opportunity for you and Ambassador Goldberg to meet each other virtually and to discuss Colombia's and Embassy Bogota's environmental priorities, particularly following Colombia's accession to the OECD.

II. Participants

US Embassy- Bogota

- Philip Goldberg, Ambassador
- Andrew Chapman, Environment, Science, and Technology Officer (TBC)
- Other U.S. Embassy Representatives TBD

EPA

- YOU
- Jane Nishida, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, OITA
- Mark Kasman, Director Office of Regional & Bilateral Affairs, OITA
- Nate Zimmer, Senior Advisor to the OITA AA

III. Prior History

This will be your first interaction with Ambassador Goldberg.

IV. Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Discussion
 - Past and recent work in Colombia

- OECD accession as an impetus for enhanced EPA-Colombia cooperation
 - Embassy thoughts on priority areas for environmental cooperation
- Next Steps and Wrap-up

V. Attachments

- Attachment 1 – YOUR talking points
- Attachment 2 – Biography for U.S. Ambassador Philip S. Goldberg
- Attachment 3 – Background on EPA’s Collaboration with Colombia
- Attachment 4 – OECD Press Release on Colombia’s Accession

ATTACHMENT 1 - Talking Points

- Thank you for agreeing to meet with me. It is a pleasure to meet you virtually and to discuss environmental issues in Colombia with you.

Past Cooperation and Interest in Enhancing Collaboration

- We have enjoyed our partnership with Colombia in the past, working together on governance issues under our U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement and associated Environmental Cooperation Agreement, the High-Level Partnership Dialogue (HLPD), and within the OECD and the Latin American Network for Environmental Enforcement and Compliance (REDLAFICA).
 - EPA conducted webinars with Colombia's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the National Authority for Environmental Licensing (ANLA) on topics such as calculation of environmental enforcement penalties, development of Colombia's Pollutant Release and Transfer Registry (PRTR), and development of Colombia's marine water quality standards.
 - EPA has also provided information to Embassy Bogota and the Government of Colombia on the safe use of pesticides in the country's aerial coca eradication program.
- Colombia and EPA have also partnered on work to promote the safe handling, transportation, and storage of mercury, particularly from artisanal and small-scale gold mining.
 - EPA, working with UNEP, recently completed a project with the Colombian Cleaner Production Center that developed a Mercury Handling, Transport and Storage Guidance for Colombian Environmental Authorities who encounter mercury during ASGM enforcement activities.
 - An EPA Mercury Specialist, supported by the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. State Department, continues to assist Colombian Environmental Authorities with the safe handling and storage of mercury, including scoping the potential to construct an interim mercury storage "bodega" near Medellin.
 - The EPA Mercury Specialist also supported Colombian Police and Military uptake of the Mercury Handling, Transport and Storage Guidance that was

developed through the EPA/UNEP project with the Cleaner Production Center.

- I am eager to discuss ways that we could continue to support Colombia as they continue to strengthen their environmental governance.

Colombia's Accession to OECD as a Potential Mechanism for Expanded Cooperation

- We were happy to learn of Colombia's accession after a 5-year OECD process and nearly 2-year internal process.
- EPA is active in the OECD Environmental Policy Committee that conducted Colombia's accession review regarding environmental standards and recommended reforms to align its legislation, policies, and practices to OECD standards.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- EPA and OECD are both a part of the program advisory committee for the Global Environment Facility's planetGOLD program. The planetGOLD project is exploring ways that gold supply chains can contribute to the reduction of mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Colombia.

Colombia's Environmental Challenges Where EPA Could Be a Value-Added

- From your perspective, what are the priority environmental issues in Colombia?
- What are the environmental issues that the U.S. Embassy (U.S. State Department, USAID, INL) is currently addressing in Colombia?
- Are there any issues where EPA could be a value added?
- I want to highlight that water is a priority international issues for EPA Administrator Wheeler.

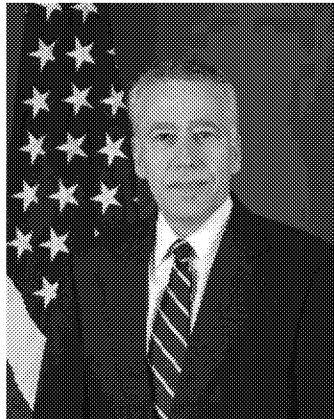
- EPA is exploring opportunities for collaboration internationally where our expertise and domestic approaches to water infrastructure finance might be leveraged by others. Colombia water sector may be positioned to take advantage of this potential collaboration.

Wrap-up

- Thank you again for discussing these issues and for your support as we move forward with engaging Colombia to work on shared issues of concern.
- As environmental opportunities arise, please feel free to let my staff and me know.
- I look forward to engaging with you as we work to enhance our cooperation with Colombia.

ATTACHMENT 2-

Biography for U.S. Ambassador to Colombia Philip S. Goldberg



Philip S. Goldberg was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Ambassador to Colombia on August 1, 2019. Most recently, he was a Senior Diplomatic Fellow at Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of Diplomacy. In 2018, he served as Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Cuba.

From 2013-2016, Ambassador Goldberg served as U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines. Prior to that assignment, he served as Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (2010-2013); U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia (2006-2008); Chief of Mission in Pristina, Kosovo (2004-2006); and Charge d'Affaires and Deputy Chief of Mission in Santiago, Chile (2001-2004). From 2009-2010, Ambassador Goldberg was coordinator for the implementation of UN sanctions on North Korea. His other overseas tours included Bogota, Colombia, where he served as the Plan Colombia coordinator, and Pretoria, South Africa.

Ambassador Goldberg was a senior member of the State Department team handling the transition from the Clinton to Bush administrations, and served as acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs (2000-2001) and Special Assistant and Executive Assistant to Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott (1996-2000). As the Bosnia Desk Officer and Special Assistant to Ambassador Richard Holbrooke (1994-1996), Ambassador Goldberg was a member of the American negotiating team in the lead-up to the Dayton Peace Conference and Chief of Staff for the American delegation at Dayton.

Ambassador Goldberg holds the personal rank of Career Ambassador, the highest rank in the U.S. Foreign Service. He has received numerous awards, including Presidential Distinguished and Meritorious Service Awards; the Department's Distinguished Honor Award and the Silver Seal Medallion for Meritorious Service in the U.S. Intelligence Community.

Ambassador Goldberg is a native of Boston, Massachusetts, and a graduate of Boston University. Before joining the Foreign Service, he served as a liaison officer between the government of the City of New York and the United Nations and Consular Community. He speaks Spanish.

ATTACHMENT 3 – EPA Collaboration with Colombia

EPA's relationship with Colombia expanded following the passing of the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement and associated Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA) in 2012, which made Colombia a priority country for cooperation. EPA has also elevated its engagement with Colombia through the U.S.-Colombia High-Level Partnership Dialogue, a forum that facilitates collaboration on a broad range of issues: energy, environmental protection and climate change, culture and education, economic and social opportunities, good governance and democracy and human rights. Colombia has used the HLPD process to request EPA information exchange and collaboration on issues such as management of mercury from illegal artisanal mining seizures and development of marine water quality standards. EPA has had limited information exchanges with Colombia on implementation of the Colombia Action Plan on Racial and Ethnic Equality (CAPREE); however, we haven't collaborated on any specific projects on the ground.

EPA environmental cooperation to date with Colombia has focused on enforcement-related workshops, Global Methane Initiative (GMI) implementation, and participation in regional workshops on public participation and in the Latin America Network for Environmental Enforcement and Compliance (REDLAFICA). EPA has also provided policy and technical expertise regarding mercury use in artisanal small-scale gold mining (ASGM). While the U.S. has a work plan under the ECA that identifies priorities area for cooperation, EPA has no formal cooperation with funding at this time.

Recent Collaboration

Mercury

In late 2015, EPA received a request from the Colombian National Police (through the Colombian Embassy in Washington DC) to provide technical support on the following areas:

- Training and capacity building for managing material generated in the course of prosecuting environmental crimes, with a focus on techniques applied for the preservation and safe handling of evidence related to criminal investigations.
- Procedures and technologies applied for the seizure, interim storage, and final disposition of dangerous substances associated to the illegal exploitation of mining resources (mercury, cyanide, lead).
- Procedures and equipment required for the transportation, storage and final disposition of dangerous substances.

As a result of this request, and with Embassy Bogota/INL funding, two USEPA On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) presented a daylong technical training for the Colombian National Police and Army on the use of mercury detection equipment that can be used in enforcement actions against illegal artisanal and small-scale mining operations. The detection equipment is used to measure mercury levels in air and in soil. Such data gathered at a crime scene is intended to be used as evidence in court cases against illegal mining actors. The training consisted of a classroom session to present basic operation principles of the detection technologies, and a hands-on practice session to give participants the opportunity to apply what they learned in the classroom.

In October 2018, OITA staff conducted a site visit of the joint UNEP/EPA Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Project being implemented by the Colombian Cleaner Production Center (CNPML). This project contributes to ongoing U.S./Colombia cooperation to advance the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. EPA also participated in the XVIII International Enforcement Symposium in Medellin, Colombia, presenting on mercury-related issues found in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASGM).

Shun-Ping Chau, an On-Scene Coordinator in Region 8, was posted in U.S. Embassy/Bogota Econ Office as an Embassy Science Fellow (but sitting in the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development) from mid-October to early December 2018, and then again in late December through January 2019. While there, she is working with the Colombian government, NGOs, and Universities to help eliminate the use of mercury in illegal gold mining, assist the remediation and disposal of heavy metals, and improve occupational health and safety in the handling of mercury and heavy metals. This Embassy Science Fellowship supports EPA's interest in implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the U.S.-Colombia MOU on illegal gold mining.

Memorandum of Understanding on Illegal Mining

The U.S.- Colombia MOU on Cooperation Related to the Prevention and Control of Illegal Gold Mining was signed in early March 2018 during the U.S.-Colombia High-Level Policy Dialogue, held in Bogota. The purpose of the MOU is to strengthen the participants' ongoing partnership and collaboration related to the prevention and control of illegal gold mining.

Enforcement and Compliance

EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance and Region 1 held a series of telephone and video conferences with Colombia's National Authority for Environmental Licensing (ANLA) to discuss how the EPA calculates penalties.

In addition, ANLA was a founding member and continues to be active in the Latin America Environmental Enforcement and Compliance Network (REDLAFICA). Representatives from Colombia have participated in various regional workshops and annual meetings since the Network's inception. Some of their travel has been funded by EPA through our Interagency Agreement with DOS for cooperation with Chile.

Safe Use of Pesticides in Aerial Coca Eradication

EPA shared technical information with the Government of Colombia on the safe use of pesticides in the country's aerial coca eradication program and routinely provided information to State Department regarding use of glyphosate in State Department's drug interdiction programs in Colombia.

Attachment 4 – OECD Press Release on Colombia’s Accession

Global OECD welcomes Colombia as its 37th Member

28/04/2020 - Today Colombia has formally become an OECD Member, the 37th country to do so in the Organisation's near 60-year history.

Colombia has now completed its domestic procedures for ratification of the OECD Convention and deposited its instrument of accession. This brings to a successful conclusion an accession process that began in 2013.

OECD Member countries formally invited Colombia to join the Organisation in May 2018, following a five-year accession process during which it underwent in-depth reviews by 23 OECD Committees and introduced major reforms to align its legislation, policies and practices to OECD standards. These spanned the breadth of policy fields including labour issues, reform of the justice system, corporate governance of state-owned enterprises, anti-bribery, trade and the establishment of a national policy on industrial chemicals and waste management.

Beyond the technical aspects, the accession process has served as a catalyst for Colombia to proceed to important reforms to improve the well-being of its citizens, such as the reduction of informality in the labour market, improving the quality and relevance of education and training as well as the long-term sustainability of the health system.

Welcoming the news, OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría said, “We are delighted to welcome Colombia as the 37th member of the OECD. Colombia’s accession is tangible proof of our commitment to bring together countries who strive for the highest standards in global public policy in order to improve the well-being and quality of life of their citizens. Given its recent history, Colombia can be rightly proud of what is truly an exceptional achievement.”

“The accession process has offered Colombia the opportunity to address major policy issues and challenges multilaterally and to learn from the experiences of fellow OECD countries. Engaging Colombia has also served to enrich the OECD’s knowledge and policy experience,” Mr Gurría said.

Colombia’s accession will extend the OECD’s membership to 37 countries. It will be the third Member country from the Latin America and Caribbean region to join following Mexico and Chile. A fourth, Costa Rica, is entering the final stages of its accession process to the Organisation.

Note to Editors:

The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that promotes policies to improve the economic and social well-being of people worldwide. It provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to the economic, social and governance challenges they face.

The OECD’s 37 members are: Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Working with over 100 countries, the OECD is a global policy forum that promotes policies to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world.